Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03671 281921Z 15 **ACTION NEA-12** INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /159 W ----- 127609 R 281653Z MAR 74 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7141 INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI USINT ALGIERS AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO USINT DAMASCUS USMISSION GENEVA AMCONSUL JERUSALEM AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY RABAT AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI AMEMBASSY TUNIS USMISSION USUN NEW YORK USINT BAGHDAD CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 3671 DEPT PASS MANAMA AND SANAA KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN/PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE GENEVA TALKS

REF: CAIRO 1606

1. AL AHRAM STORY OF FORMATION JOINT EGYPTIAN-PLO COMMITTEE HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY LOCAL PRESS BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO REFERENCE TO IT IN PLO DAILY BULLETIN (WAFA) OR ANY OTHER FEDAYEEN OR PRO-FEDAYEEN PUBLICATIONS. FEDAYEEN LEADERS, QUERIED BY REPORTER FROM AN NAHAR, PLEDED COMPLETE IGNORANCE OF SUCH COMMITTEE.

COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT WHILE 'ARAFAT MAY WELL HAVE AGREED TO FORMATION SUCH COMMITTEE. HE HAS NOT OBTAINED AND MAY NOT EVEN HAVE TRIED OBTAIN APPROVAL OF OTHER MEMBERS PLO/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF EXCOM, EVEN THOSE FROM FATAH, WOULD AGREE TO ESTABLISHMENT SUCH COMMITTEE. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, 'ARAFAT HAS BEEN IN MINORITY POSITION ON QUESTIONS SUCH AS EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AND LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO, TO SAY NOTHING OF TROUBLE HE HAS IN MORE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES, WHEN IT COMES TO HIS TIGHT ALLIANCE WITH SADAT. UNLESS AND UNTIL SYRIA CLOSES RANKS WITH EGYPT ON BROAD GAMUT OF SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS, STARTING WITH DISENGAGEMENT, EGYPT-PLO COMMITTEE LIKELY EXIST ONLY ON PAPER AND SERVE MORE AS DIVISIVE FACTOR BETWEEN FEDAYEEN LEADERS AND EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES (AND 'ARAFAT) THAN INSTRUMENT OF EGYPTIAN "CONTROL". **GODLEY**

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED MANAMA AND SANAA.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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